



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS  
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, CA 90012 – (213) 974-1465

FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Mr. James Cragin  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore  
Mr. Michael A. Russell

### **MINUTES** **OF THE REGULAR MEETING** **OF FEBRUARY 25, 2004**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Montano at 10:11 a.m. A list of those in attendance follows.

#### **ATTENDANCE - ROLL CALL**

##### **Present**

Vice-Chairperson Eleanor Montano  
Frank Bacio  
Vito Cannella  
John Hammargren  
Carl Moore  
Michael Russell  
Helen Stathatos

##### **Excused Absent**

James Cragin

Guests

None

Staff

Gene Romig  
Dedie Ward  
Paul Byrne

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2004**

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Russell and unanimously carried, the Minutes of February 18, 2004 were approved with the following correction:

Page 2, under the heading: the date of the meeting notice should be changed to Agenda and Notice for February 11, 2004.

**VICE CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice-Chair Montano welcomed and introduced the newest member appointed to the commission by Supervisor Knabe, John A. Hammargren. Commissioner Hammargren retired in 2000 as a Commander with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department after over 38 years of County service. Commissioner Hammargren has many interests which include hunting, fishing, skiing, and volunteering with the Department of Fish and Game's youth hunting program, and he is also a part time hunting guide.

Chair Montano thanked Gene Romig for ordering the wreath in memory of Mrs. Brand and also requested that a recent news article in the Los Angeles Times featuring the life of Mrs. Brand be permanently preserved for placement in the Commission office.

The Commission also recognized the birthday of Commissioner Russell.

## **REVIEW OF DRAFT LETTER TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER REGARDING PROPOSED PLANS FOR THE COMMISSION OFFICE**

Commissioners reviewed and offered their input about the draft letter. Following discussion, it was agreed that a sentence be added requesting that the memorabilia and tributes to Mrs. Brand in the Commission offices be inventoried and catalogued as soon as possible. In addition, it was suggested that the office be renovated. Discussion ensued about the ownership of the Sybil Brand memorabilia. Following discussion, Commissioners requested that the staff check with County Counsel to determine if the contents of the offices are the property of the County or considered the personal property of Mrs. Brand.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Vice Chairperson Montano noted that the inspection reports from DCFS, Auditor Controller and Probation are on file in the Commission office for review by the Commissioners at their convenience.

## **FACILITY GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS**

Commissioner Stathatos reported on the Aviva Center's Annual Conference on Adolescent which she and Commissioners Moore and Montana attended on February 12, 2004.

Commissioner Stahatos reported that she was most impressed by the keynote address delivered by the new Executive Director of DCFS, Dr. David E. Saunders.

Dr. Saunders gave an overview on the goals and direction the department will be taking in the future. Dr. Saunders expressed that he is working to implement programs aimed at changing the public's perception of the department, and emphasized the value of developing good public relations. He would like to enhance communication opportunities, particularly with agencies and departments that DCFS is directly involved with in.

Dr. Saunders would like to implement preventative measures to ensure that children do not “languish” in placement facilities and is working to decrease the time children spend in placement and expedite the process to reunite the children with their families. He would also like to ensure that reunited families have access to the financial assistance they may need.

Changes are also being made to increase community outreach and positive interaction and communication with the public, and the department is being revitalized to make changes to improve the overall structure and method of operation of the department.

#### Human Services Network

- Inspection conducted by: Commissioner Cannella
- Inspection escort: Sherry Hall
- Facility capacity: 6; occupancy: 6 (DCFS boys)
- Overall Assessment: Satisfactory. The house rules and individuals rights for the children needed posting.

#### Camp Rocky

- Inspection conducted by: Commissioners Stahathos and Cannella
- Inspection escort:
- Facility capacity: 135; occupancy: 111
- Overall Assessment: Satisfactory. The facility had its gym renovated last year. The laundry room and laundry assembly area are in disarray. The facility could be more organized, needs better quality cleaning products and an upgrade in the temperature control system. The Commissioners expressed some concerns regarding a leak in the roof outside of laundry area which is causing the pooling of rain water close to where the food supply is stored. It was felt that this issue was definitely a health and safety concern. There was also no key on site for the food supply.

#### Alannah Homes, Page 1, #3

- Inspection conducted by: Commissioners Montano and Moore
- Facility capacity: 6, occupancy: 5 (DCFS boys, ages 14-17)

- Overall assessment: Satisfactory: First aid kit needed restocking. Occupancy down because one youth arrested the day before for assaulting a staff member.

Alannah Homes, Page 1, #2

- Inspection conducted by: Commissioners Montano and Moore
- Facility capacity: 6; occupation: 6 (DCFS boys)
- Overall assessment: Satisfactory

#### Report on Correctional Education Advisory Commission meeting

Commissioner Bacio reported that he represented the Commission at the Correctional Education Advisory Committee meeting held on February 12. The Committee is in the process of rotating its education programming directors. Also Twin Towers will be installing a new software package that will enable them to communicate and interface with State prisons. A new laundry person will be hired at the Peter Pitchess Ranch and a new culinary program will be implemented at Twin Towers. A Job Fair was held on October 23. Thirty female inmates attended the fair which had employers participating from 25 companies.

The Friends Outside program and the Catholic Charities organization will be increasing their participation at the jails assisting inmates.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (TO BE PRESENTED AND PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF A FUTURE MEETING)**

Reorganization of the Commission will be placed on the next agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dedie Ward  
Commission Services**